

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 04727 231835Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EPA-04 DOTE-00 EB-08 CEQ-01
COME-00 HEW-06 /039 W
-----106791 240724Z /11
R 231622Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4508

UNCLAS LONDON 04727

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, ECEM
SUB: KEPONE INCINERATION IN UK

REF: STATE 68929

1. REFERENCED POUCHED LETTER NOT YET RECEIVED.
2. JACK BENTLEY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, GROUP, DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT, CONFIRMS CONTACT WITH OFFICIALS OF ALLIED CHEMICAL AND RECHEM INTERNATIONAL LTD. BENTLEY ADVISES THAT ALLIED/RECHEM ARRANGEMENT APPLIES ONLY TO MATERIALS IN CONTROL OF ALLIED, I.E. KEPONE INVENTORIES AND MANUFACTURING WASTES - ESTIMATED TOTAL 250 TONS, AND DOES NOT REPEAT NOT INCLUDE SLUDGE FROM RIVER DREDGING.
3. BENTLEY REPORTS DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT APPROVAL IS NOT REQUIRED, SINCE RECHEM INT'L LTD. IS NOT LICENSED BY HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE, ALKALI INSPECTORATE, FOR DISPOSAL OPERATIONS OF THIS KIND. (RECHEM IS, ALREADY IMPORTING US ORIGIN PCB'S FOR INCINERATION). SO LONG AS RECHEM OPERATES WITHIN TERMS SET BY EXISTING LICENSES, NO FURTHER UKG AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED. MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT WILL, HOWEVER, BE INFORMED.

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4. SCICOUNS REVIEWED US PUBLIC DEBATE OF KEPONE ISSUE WITH BENTLEY. PER BENTLEY, UKG POSITION IS THAT DANGEROUS CHEMICALS, VIZ PCB, MIGRATE THROUGH NATURAL ENVIRONMENT TO RISK OF UK POPULATION, WHEREVER ORIGINATED. PERMANENT DISPOSAL BY INCINERATION THUS PREFERABLE TO ANY AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVE.

5. ON SLUDGE ASPECT, BENTLEY CONFIRMED THAT ALLIED HAD NOT RAISED THIS WITH RECHEM OR UKG. TOTAL VOLUME INVOLVED WOULD CLEARLY REQUIRE PRE-CONCENTRATION BEFORE SHIPMENT IF RECHEM IS TO HANDLE. SCICOUNS AGREED BUT POINTED OUT THAT IF THIS WERE UNDERTAKEN, US MEDIA WOULD LIKELY BE ALERTED. BENTLEY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT USG COULD NOT CONTROL PRESS STATEMENTS BY ALLIED OR BY STATE OR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS. UKG "DID HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT USG OFFICIALS WOULD REFRAIN FROM 'CROWING' ABOUT PUTTING THE PROBLEM ON THE UK".

6. THERE HAVE BEEN PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES ON PRIOR RECHEM ACTIVITIES, E.G. PCB'S. OFFICIAL POSITION OF HMG HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN AS INDICATED PARA 4 ABOVE.

STREATOR

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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SAS ID: 3227310
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: KEPONE INCINERATION IN UK
TAGS: SENV, ECEM, US, UK, ALLIED CHEMICAL, RECHEM INTL LTD
To: STATE
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vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/41341fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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